

Cobb CERT Community Preparedness Working Group

Mission Statement

To assist Cobb Emergency Management Agency (CEMA) in planning and implementing strategies for disaster preparation education and encouraging readiness of Cobb residents.

Goals and Objectives

1. Implement approved strategies for educating residents in disaster preparedness by assisting the Cobb Coalition on Disaster Education (CCODE) and developing contacts with secondary media outlets.
2. Train CERT members who will staff the CERT desk in the EOC during disaster activation.
3. Provide support to other specialized preparedness programs and special projects as requested by the CEMA Deputy Director.

Accomplishments

- Developed Neighborhood CERT (NCERT) operational manual
- Developed the pilot NCERT program, kick-off conference, and recruitment efforts
- Established Cobb Coalition on Disaster Education (CCODE) as well as databases including day care centers, churches, mosques, synagogues, and faith-based organizations to be used by CCODE and CEMA
- Developed database of CERT member skills and other pertinent information for more effective use of CERT volunteers
- Introduced CERT to local universities (Kennesaw State University and Southern Polytechnic University)
- Developed specialty databases for populations-at-risk
- Drafted manual for CERT operations during EOC activations
- Incorporated Cobb Disaster Preparedness Volunteers, Inc., a non-profit organization to assist in resource development for CERT, Cobb Medical Reserve Corps, and other projects supported by the Cobb Citizen Advisory Corps

Chairman of the Working Group – Ginger Peterson

Ginger grew up in Cobb County and graduated from Sprayberry High School, and she has a degree in Electronics-Telecommunications from Waukesha County Technical College in Pewaukee, WI. She worked for Bell Telephone for 30 years as an operator, clerk, service representative, installer, and electronics technician.

Peterson has years of volunteer experience in scheduling volunteers, organizing and managing blood drives, planning/coordinating Salvation Army Bell Ringers. Currently, she works as a volunteer for Lutheran Services of Georgia, Tall Clubs International, Must Ministries, the Georgia Mineral Society, and the Red Cross. She is involved helping develop a program in Nairobi, Kenya, to teach poverty-stricken women how to sew and develop basic skills to raise their families from the Kibera Slum.

Ginger lives in Kennesaw near her family, including five great-nephews and one great-niece! She is very interested in disaster recovery management, refugee resettlement, and mission work.

Please contact Ginger Peterson for more information about the Cobb County Community Preparedness Working Group at gingerlea57@gmail.com.